

Serial No. 10/721,179
Amendment dated April 5, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 5, 2005

Docket No. K-0586

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-21, 23-29, and 31-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 10 and 24 are amended, and claims 22 and 30 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter; (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal, if necessary. Entry is thus requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-9 and 19-20 are allowed, and that claims 17-18, 22, 28, and 30 would be allowable rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Merely to expedite prosecution of the application, the subject matter of allowable claims 22 and 30 has been incorporated into independent claims 10 and 24, respectively. Accordingly, claims 10 and 24, as well as rejected claims 11-16, 21, 23, 25-27, 29, and 31-32, and objected to claims 17-18 and 28, which depend respectively therefrom, should be in condition for allowance. Thus, the application should be in

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condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 10-16, 21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,700,495 to Drews et al. (hereinafter “Drews”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, the subject matter of allowable claim 22 has been incorporated into independent claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 is allowable over Drews, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 11-16, 21, and 23 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth with respect to independent claim 10, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claims 24-27, 29, and 31-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,857,016 to Meyer et al. (hereinafter “Meyer”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, the subject matter of allowable claim 30 has been incorporated into independent claim 24. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 24 is not anticipated by Meyer, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 25-27, 29, and 31-32 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 24, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

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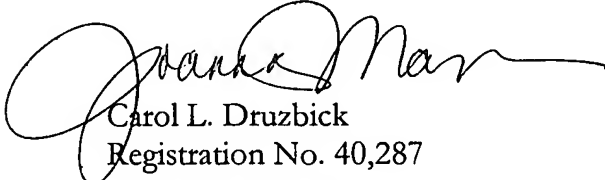
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, **Joanna K. Mason**, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: May 4, 2005

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